

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 ARA-10 IO-13 AF-08 EA-09 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02 OMB-01 /137 W

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R 201515Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7734

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2867

OSLO FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SW, CU, VN, CB

SUBJECT: SWEDISH PARLIAMENT REDUCES FY 1977 AID APPROPRIATION
TO CUBA

REF: STOCKHOLM A-45

1. SWEDISH PARLIAMENT DECIDED MAY 19 BY DRAWING LOTS AFTER A
TIED VOTE TO APPROPRIATE ONLY SKR 40 MILLION (CURRENTLY ABOUT
\$9.1 MILLION) FOR FY 77 AID TO CUBA INSTEAD OF SKR 70 MILLION
ASKED FOR BY GOVERNMENT. GOVERNMENT, SUPPORTED BY COMMUNIST
PARTY (VPK), HAD PROPOSED INCREASING CUBAN AID BY SKR 10 MILLION
FROM SKR 60 MILLION LEVEL IN FY 76. CENTER AND LIBERAL PARTIES
WANTED GRADUAL PHASEOUT, CALLING FOR REDUCTION TO SKR 40 MILLION
IN FY 77, WHILE MODERATE PARTY WANTED TO STOP ALL CUBAN AID
IMMEDIATELY.

2. VOTE FOLLOWED HEATED AND LENGTHY FOREIGN AID DEBATE
WHICH CENTERED ON APPROPRIATENESS OF INCREASING AID TO ONE OF
THE RICHER LDCS WHICH HAD BEEN ABLE TO SUPPLY THOUSANDS OF
SOLDIERS TO ANGOLA. FOREIGN AID MINISTER GERTRUD SIGURDSEN
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ARGUED CUTOFF OR REDUCTION WOULD BE CONTRARY TO INFORMAL

ASSURANCES PROVIDED MAJOR AID RECIPIENTS INCLUDING CUBA, ON AID LEVELS OVER NEXT THREE YEARS AND WOULD THEREFORE BE HARMFUL TO SWEDEN'S CREDIBILITY AMONG LDCS IN GENERAL. CENTER PARTY (THORSTEN BENGTSOHN) AND LIBERAL PARTY (OLA ULLSTEN) CLAIMED OTHER LDCS IN GREATER ECONOMIC NEED THAN CUBA. MODERATES (ALLAN HERNELIUS) OBJECTED THAT CUBAN AID WAS INDIRECTLY SUPPORTING CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

3. DURING DEBATE OPPOSITION ALSO CRITICIZED EXPENSIVE DELAYS IN PULP AND PAPERMILL PROJECT IN NORTH VIETNAM AND WILLINGNESS OF GOVERNMENT TO AID CAMBODIA BEFORE PROPOSAL WAS VETOED BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT. SOCIAL DEMOCRAT SPOKESMAN (ANNA-LISA LEWEN-ELIASSON) MAINTAINED THAT THE MASS OF PEOPLE IN CAMBODIA WERE SUFFERING AND NEEDED AID, REGARDLESS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS. OPPOSITION SPEAKERS AGREED THAT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WOULD BE DESIRABLE, BUT STATED THAT THE BRUTALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT MADE EFFECTIVE AID IMPOSSIBLE.

4. EDITORIAL OPINION WAS MIXED. SVENSKA DAGBLADET (MODERATE) CONSIDERED CUBAN AID HAS ALWAYS BEEN DAMAGING TO SWEDISH PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF TOTAL AID PROGRAM. IT NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY PRESENTED CUBA AS MODEL AID RECIPIENT, AVOIDING MENTION OF STRICT DICTATORSHIP THERE, POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND DEPENDENCE UPON MOSCOW. DAGENS NYHETER (INDEPENDENT-LIBERAL) COMPLAINED THAT RELATIVELY IMPORTANT ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN SETTLED BY STRAWS.

5. COMMENT. TIED VOTE ON CUBAN AID ISSUE HAD BEEN PREDICTED. STRENGTH OF PUBLIC OPPOSITION OF THIS QUESTION IN ELECTION YEAR MAY HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR UNEXPECTEDLY MILD DEFENSE OF GOVERNMENT BY MRS. SIGURDSEN.
SMITH

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